

by unanimous consent, laid on the table.

Ordered, That the Clerk request the concurrence of the Senate in said bill.

¶145.17 WEST VIRGINIA HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

Mr. SCHAEFER moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1051) to provide for the extension of certain hydroelectric projects located in the State of West Virginia.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. MCINNIS, recognized Mr. SCHAEFER and Mr. PALLONE, each for 20 minutes.

After debate,

The question being put, viva voce,

Will the House suspend the rules and pass said bill?

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. MCINNIS, announced that two-thirds of the Members present had voted in the affirmative.

So, two-thirds of the Members present having voted in favor thereof, the rules were suspended and said bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider the vote whereby the rules were suspended and said bill was passed was, by unanimous consent, laid on the table.

Ordered, That the Clerk request the concurrence of the Senate in said bill.

¶145.18 OREGON HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

Mr. SCHAEFER moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1290) to reinstate the permit for, and extend the deadline under the Federal Power Act applicable to the construction of, a hydroelectric project in Oregon, and for other purposes; as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. MCINNIS, recognized Mr. SCHAEFER and Mr. PALLONE, each for 20 minutes.

After debate,

The question being put, viva voce,

Will the House suspend the rules and pass said bill, as amended?

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. MCINNIS, announced that two-thirds of the Members present had voted in the affirmative.

So, two-thirds of the Members present having voted in favor thereof, the rules were suspended and said bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider the vote whereby the rules were suspended and said bill, as amended, was passed was, by unanimous consent, laid on the table.

Ordered, That the Clerk request the concurrence of the Senate in said bill.

¶145.19 WEST VIRGINIA HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

Mr. SCHAEFER moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1335) to provide for the extension of a hydroelectric project located in the State of West Virginia.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. MCINNIS, recognized Mr. SCHAEFER and Mr. PALLONE, each for 20 minutes.

After debate,

The question being put, viva voce,

Will the House suspend the rules and pass said bill?

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. MCINNIS, announced that two-thirds of the Members present had voted in the affirmative.

So, two-thirds of the Members present having voted in favor thereof, the rules were suspended and said bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider the vote whereby the rules were suspended and said bill was passed was, by unanimous consent, laid on the table.

Ordered, That the Clerk request the concurrence of the Senate in said bill.

¶145.20 MT. HOPE WATERPOWER PROJECT

Mr. SCHAEFER moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1366) to authorize the extension of time limitation for the FERC-issued hydroelectric license for the Mt. Hope Waterpower Project.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. MCINNIS, recognized Mr. SCHAEFER and Mr. PALLONE, each for 20 minutes.

After debate,

The question being put, viva voce,

Will the House suspend the rules and pass said bill?

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. MCINNIS, announced that two-thirds of the Members present had voted in the affirmative.

So, two-thirds of the Members present having voted in favor thereof, the rules were suspended and said bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider the vote whereby the rules were suspended and said bill was passed was, by unanimous consent, laid on the table.

Ordered, That the Clerk request the concurrence of the Senate in said bill.

¶145.21 RECESS—3:39 P.M.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. MCINNIS, pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, declared the House in recess at 3 o'clock and 39 minutes p.m., subject to the call of the Chair.

¶145.22 AFTER RECESS—5:04 P.M.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. RIGGS, called the House to order.

¶145.23 MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—VETO OF H.R. 2586

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. RIGGS, laid before the House a message from the President, which was read as follows:

To the House of Representatives:

I am returning herewith without my approval H.R. 2586, a bill that would provide a temporary increase in the public debt limit while adding extraneous measures that have no place on legislation of this kind.

This bill would make it almost inevitable that the Government would default for the first time in our history. This is deeply irresponsible. A default has never happened before, and it should not happen now.

I have repeatedly urged the Congress to pass promptly legislation raising the debt limit for a reasonable period of time to protect the Nation's creditworthiness and avoid default. Republicans in the Congress have acknowledged the need to raise the debt limit; the budget resolution calls for raising it to \$5.5 trillion, and the House and Senate voted to raise it to that level in passing their reconciliation bills.

This bill, however, would threaten the Nation with default after December 12—the day on which the debt limit increase in the bill would expire—for two reasons:

First, under this bill, on December 13 the debt limit would fall to \$4.8 trillion, an amount \$100 billion below the current level of \$4.9 trillion. The next day, more than \$44 billion in Government securities mature, and the Federal Government would be unable to borrow the funds to redeem them. The owners of those securities would not be paid on time.

Second, the bill would severely limit the cash management options that the Treasury may be able to use to avert a default. Specifically, it would limit the Secretary's flexibility to manage the investments of certain Government funds—flexibility that the Congress first gave to President Reagan. Finally, while the bill purports to protect benefit recipients, it would make it very likely that after December 12, the Federal Government would be unable to make full or timely payments for a wide variety of Government obligations, including interest on the public debt, Medicare, Medicaid, military pay, certain veterans' benefits, and payments to Government contractors.

As I have said clearly and repeatedly, the Congress should keep the debt limit separate from the debate over how to balance the budget. The debt limit has nothing to do with reducing the deficit; it has to do with meeting the obligations that the Government has already incurred.

Nevertheless, Republicans in the Congress have resorted to extraordinary tactics to try to force their extreme budget and priorities into law. In essence, they have said they will not pass legislation to let the Government pay its bills unless I accept their extreme, misguided priorities.

This is an unacceptable choice, and I must veto this legislation.

The Administration also strongly opposes the addition of extraneous provisions on this bill. Items like habeas corpus and regulatory reform are matters that should be considered and debated separately. Extraneous issues of this kind have no place in this bill.

The Congress should pass a clean bill that I can sign. With that in mind, I am sending the Congress a measure to raise the permanent debt limit to \$5.5 trillion as the Congress called for in the budget resolution, without any extraneous provisions.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, November 13, 1995.